



Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

60th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

CAROL JUNEAU
RICK LAIBLE
TERRY MURPHY
DAN WEINBERG

HOUSE MEMBERS

EDITH CLARK
ERNIE DUTTON
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DIANE SANDS

COMMITTEE STAFF

SUE O'CONNELL, Lead Staff
LISA JACKSON, Staff Attorney
FONG HOM, Secretary

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CONTACT: Sue O'Connell, 444-3597 or soconnell@mt.gov

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER HEALTH STUDIES Children, Families Interim Committee to Hold First Meeting June 26

HELENA -- The Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Committee will meet June 26 to prepare its work plan for the next 16 months, including how it will proceed with two interim studies involving different aspects of Montana's health care system.

The committee will review the state's emergency medical care system and also will study the effects of various health care delivery systems -- including specialty hospitals -- on health care services in Montana.

Senate Joint Resolution 5, which authorized the emergency medical care study, specifically seeks a review of issues that communities face relating to emergency medical services and asks the committee to identify strategies for ensuring that services remain in place throughout the state.

The Senate Joint Resolution 15 study of health care delivery systems seeks a review of how the different means of providing health care services in Montana affect the cost and quality of care. The committee is charged with developing policy recommendations on such matters as the ways in which hospitals grant privileges to physicians to practice in a hospital; the practice of physicians referring patients to medical facilities in which they have an ownership interest; and whether a need exists to continue moratoriums on specialty hospitals, which offer only selected medical procedures.

The Children and Families committee also will discuss the draft study plan for House Joint Resolution 48, a study of health insurance reforms that was assigned to the Economic Affairs Interim Committee with a recommendation that the two committees appoint a joint subcommittee to work on the study.

The committee also will discuss other health and human services issues it may want to follow between now and the 2009 Legislature, including topics related to mental health, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid. And it will hear an update on Department of Public Health and Human Services activities, as part of its oversight responsibilities involving

that agency.

The committee is made up of an equal number of members from each political party and each legislative chamber. House members are Edith Clark, R-Sweet Grass; Ernie Dutton, R-Billings; and Teresa Henry and Diane Sands, both Missoula Democrats. Senate members are Carol Juneau, D-Browning; Rick Laible, R-Darby; Terry Murphy, R-Cardwell; and Dan Weinberg, D-Whitefish.

The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. in Room 102 of the State Capitol in Helena. The draft agenda, proposed work plan, and draft study plans are available on the committee's Web site, www.leg.mt.gov/css/committees/interim/2007_2008/child_fam/default.asp. Anyone interested in receiving e-mail notification of the activities of the Children and Families committee or any other interim committee may sign up at www.leg.mt.gov/css/email_logon.asp.

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